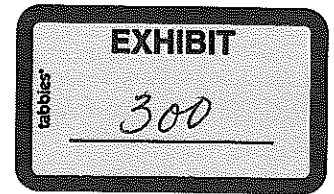


Peter and Mary Concklin
Raspberry Knoll Farm
163 North Windham Rd
North Windham, CT 06256



BUREAU OF WATER PROTECTION AND LAND REUSE
OFFICE OF THE BUREAU CHIEF
FEB 04 2010

February 2, 2010

Paul E. Stacey
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse
Planning & Standards Division
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT, 06106-5127

Mr. Stacey:

We need to be able to irrigate our crops in order to bring them to full maturity for harvest and sale. Water for irrigation is the life blood in our crop production system. It is an essential ingredient in the final product that the local population will consume. Without water for irrigation during extended dry periods, we will not be able to survive.

Agricultural use of water for irrigation should be one of the exempt uses under your new regulations. I say this based on the economic impact of our business on the local economy, both in terms of the goods and services purchased locally plus the impact of the wages and taxes we pay and will pay in the future. Water is an essential part of our production cycle and business.

We think the Commissioner's Advisory Group should be reconvened to complete the policy and implementation portion of the regulations process and to redraft the regulations to include the comments heard at the DEP's Public hearing, specifically providing farmers with access to water during drought and low flow periods.

We believe that completing the classification of the streams and rivers prior to the development of regulations is crucial to understanding what we are regulating and how, and the regulations need to be structured to meet the goals of and concerns identified by the DEP and the Commissioner.

Sincerely,

Peter and Mary Concklin